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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.Military Information

1. Yugoslav troops are concentrated mostly along the Hungarian and Bulgarian borders because the Yugoslav military authorities do not believe that Rumania would take part in the early stages of an attack on Yugoslavia.
2. The morale of the Yugoslav Army is good and the discipline is excellent; however, the men are not sufficiently trained and the Army lacks heavy arms.
3. The quality of the Yugoslav Officer Corps has improved considerably. Young officers, who have had formal military education and can speak some French and English, have been given responsible posts, and former Royalist officers have been permitted to take a more active part in important military matters. The large scale troop movements and maneuvers held during June and July 1951 were handled in an excellent manner.
4. It is believed that the great majority of the people in Yugoslavia are strongly anti-Communist, but they prefer Tito's regime to an occupation by the Soviet Union or any of the Satellites. The people of Yugoslavia have no fear of the Satellites, and if their forces were adequately armed and supplied, the Yugoslavs could successfully withstand a Satellite attack. However, the fear of the Soviets is so great that if Soviet troops should attack, the morale of the soldiers and the people would be affected to such a degree that effective fighting could be carried out only by units which succeeded in establishing positions in the mountains and forests. It is reported that plans for such an eventuality have been made.
5. The Yugoslav Army has tanks which are a revised model of the T-34 tank made in Yugoslavia. The engines for these tanks were taken from tractors imported from abroad.

Internal Political Situation

6. Under the influence of the Western Powers the regime in Yugoslavia has been gradually changing its dictatorial character. It is believed that in the near future a coalition government will be formed. Moshia Pijade and Milovan Djilas have allegedly been appointed to negotiate with the

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Socialist leaders abroad, and that they worked at this task during their stay in Paris in the spring of 1951. During June and July 1951 discussions were held with Dragelj Jovanovic regarding his release from prison and the possibility of his participation in a coalition government. The Yugoslavs believe that such a coalition government would satisfy the Western Powers as an initial step toward making the regime in Yugoslavia more democratic.

7. Edvard Kardelj is considered to be the most intelligent and best informed personality in the Federal Government and in the Yugoslav Communist Party Politburo. He also is reported to be Tito's closest collaborator. Other than Tito and Rankovic, Kardelj is the only person whose car is accompanied by guards.
8. No changes have been observed in the police system. The prisons are still full of prisoners and arrest continues on a large scale. The people outside the cities are still afraid to speak to foreigners for fear that they will be arrested by the UDB.

Relations with the Americans and British

9. American and British Embassy officials have free access to all government offices and to political leaders. They are given military information and are asked for advice.
10. It is reported that American officials are more respected than the British. The American Ambassador is trusted because of his sincerity and objectiveness, and his suggestions are accepted by the Yugoslavs as realistic and for the good of Yugoslavia. Personnel of foreign missions in Belgrade believe that the Americans have some control over the political and economic life of the country, even though there are no visible signs of such control. These circles believe that the Americans will have full control over the political, economic, and military development of Yugoslavia through members of aid missions, economic experts, military instructors who will accompany the arms given to the Yugoslav Armed Forces, and through employees of private agencies such as CARE. (sic)
11. The Yugoslavs suspended, at American request, the construction of several projects which were being carried out by forced labor. The Americans explained that the projects were not profitable investments, and that they were absorbing funds which should be used for defense purposes.
12. Individuals are no longer punished for associating with the Americans and the British and are under less surveillance and are molested less than in the past.

Greek-Yugoslav Relations

13. Greek Embassy officials have attempted to open discussions on the problem of repatriation of Greek guerrillas and persons abducted by the Greek guerrillas, but the Yugoslavs refused to open discussions even on an informal basis.
14. A group of Yugoslavs who were tried and sentenced two years ago for collaborating with the Greeks have been pardoned and released from prison. There was no public announcement when the prisoners were released.

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